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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Starting 18 September 1951, all fourteen looms belonging to the Stanz-und Drahtwebwerke Heerbrandt Raguhn (VVB Tewa) fine wire screen plant are to be moved, together with the necessary personnel, to the premises of the Tewa plant at Neustadt. The latter plant will have just enough room to accommodate these new looms, and any further centralization will have to await the planned building expansion there. 50X1-HUM

2. it is planned to move all of the fine nickel wire screen looms to Neustadt, including those at Baderschneider und Lenzner, Zeulenroda. Plans have already been drawn for the building of a larger space to house the reed-binding department at Tewa-Neustadt. Stesnov has shown particular interest in the latter plans.

3. There is at present no talk of moving the wire screen project from its present location 50X1-HUM the Russians had threatened to move the reed-binding department out of Germany and to ship the finished combs to Neustadt as imports,

4. The Tewa production of wire screen for the month of August 1951 was as follows (this does not include Baderschneider und Lenzner): 50X1-HUM

Nickel screen, 7,300-mesh: 10,500 square meters

Nickel screen, 10,000-mesh: 569 square meters (the total contract calls for 1,000 meters). This production included 97.7% Class I, 0.8% Class II, and 1.5% reject screen. The Baderschneider und Lenzner August production attained only 93% Class I screen.

5. On 1 September 1951, weaving began at Tewa-Neustadt on three looms on an order for 3,000 meters of 10,000-mesh bronze wire screen referred to technically as "Prüfsiebgewebe". The order is not for Palilov, who, in fact, showed annoyance that this and other outside orders had been accepted by Tewa-Neustadt.

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The other "outside" orders which Neustadt is preparing to weave are:

Bronze, DIN 70, 400 meters.

Bronze, DIN 80, under 1,000 meters.

Bronze, DIN 60, 75 meters.

Bronze, 300-French-inch* screen: about 1,000 meters, to be woven on six looms. This screen is about 12,300 meshes per sq. cm.

Bronze, 175-French-inch screen: amount unknown, but probably ca. 100 meters.

Bronze, 180-English-inch* screen: " " " " " " "

Bronze, 150-English-inch screen: " " " " " " "

The foregoing orders are to be woven smooth, not twill.

There are also orders for small lots of 325- and 350-French-inch screen. It is not known whether this is to be nickel or bronze, but it is to be woven in twill weave. All the foregoing [redacted] involving in all about 7,000 meters of various screens, all of bronze except possibly the last two items. The customer for this order is not known. 50X1-HUM

6. The basic 1951 contract of Tewa-Neustadt for fine nickel wire screen was finished on 3 September 1951 [redacted], and all but 700 meters of it had actually been shipped as of the end of August 1951. The supplementary contract has not yet actually been let. Palilov, who originally wanted Tewa to produce an additional 40,000 meters by the end of the year, has reduced this to 30,000 meters, where the contract will probably stay. There is some doubt in the minds of Tewa officials that even this 30,000-meter contract can be fully met by the end of the year. The supplementary contract for Baderschneider und Lenzner is said to be for about 4,000 meters, but the firm will not finish its basic contract for 42,000 meters until early November. Baderschneider weaves only 7,000-mesh fine nickel wire screen. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

7. On 8 September 1951, Tewa-Neustadt received the eleventh shipment of Russian reed steel, amounting to 67 kilograms. The tenth and eleventh shipments were of a new type, Russian specification U12A, which has not yet been tested at Neustadt. The actual supplies of reed steel now on hand at Neustadt amount to 150 kilograms. [redacted] Dr. König in Sonneberg*** tried to produce suitable stones but failed. Finally the Iges firm in Theuern, Thuringia, succeeded in producing 100 pumice stones which were passable and are now being used by Tewa for the polishing of the reed steel.

8. Phosphor-bronze instead of monel wire is now being used for binding the reeds in the Tewa reed-binding department. The phosphor-bronze wire has been taken from old Tewa supplies. It is said to be quite satisfactory except that it tends to burn if the soldering process takes too long.

9. Tewa has just received a lot of ten kilograms of spring wire used in making weaving combs. Of this, four kilograms of chrome-nickel wire came from the USSR and the remaining six came from old Tewa stocks of steel wire. Both lots were drawn down to size by the C.J. Vogel firm in Berlin-Köpenick. In early September 1951, another lot of ten kilograms of chrome-nickel spring wire came from the USSR, but it could not be used for reed-binding because it stretched as much as 15-20%.**** The dimensions of the above spring wire run between 48 and 60 microns, most of it being about 55 microns.

10. The present life of weaving combs made of Russian steel is judged to be about 310 meters of screen, according to current Tewa statistics. Each time a "Zettel", or three hundred meters of screen, is taken off the loom, the weaving comb is brought to the reed-binding department for inspection, and it is usually found that the wires have so cut into the steel lamellae that the comb is not fit for further use.

11. 50X1-HUM the hardness of the Russian reed steel deteriorates sharply in the process of the soldering bath. Russian reed steel comes out blue,

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12. The reed-binding department at Tewa-Neustadt now has the following personnel:

Chief	: Heinz Schmidt.
Solderers	: Horst Elsholz; Eduard Gudter ; Helmuth Greiling ; Schugendes ; Noack
Binders	: Four girls, and one man Fritz Zobel, who, however, mainly sets up the machines. - Also four apprentices learning to bind.
Reed polishers	: Three women.
Spring-coiler	: One woman
Cleaner	: One man (cleans the reed steel with gasoline and chalk).

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Also one woman who places the springs in the combs.

13. Reed production at Tewa-Neustadt for June, July and August was as follows: June: 30; July: 36; August: 36. Production will probably stay at this level for the time being, this being judged to be the capacity of the present shop.

14. Heinz Schmidt, chief of the reed-binding department at Tewa-Neustadt, has been working on an invention to simplify the manufacture of weaving reeds since June 1951. His basic idea is that it should be possible to lay the reeds into the metal tracks or frames (Bundschienen) in such a way that between each two reeds two shorter reeds of the same thickness can be laid crosswise. These crosspieces are to be fitted into grooves in the metal tracks, and the whole construction held together by the pressure of two screws on each end of the frame. This in theory would eliminate the necessity for the soldering bath, a difficult operation and one which, in addition, causes the Russian reed steel to deteriorate, as mentioned above. There are five employees at Zeiss who are working

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on a pilot model of such a weaving comb, but to date they have succeeded in building the comb up to a length of only 30 centimeters. One reason may be that the Zeiss workers are unfamiliar with this type of work. With enough application the idea could probably be made to work and it would eventually be possible to build a machine to construct the combs on this solderless principle. It is believed, however, that the prospects are dim for a rapid solution to the problem.

15. The chief personnel at the Tewa-Neustadt plant is as follows:

Director	: Alletsee (is also commercial director).
Production chief	: Hein.
Technical chief	: Schuhknecht.
Personnel chief	: Blaschke (succeeding Fräulein Müller).
Statistics and planning chief	: Bergmann.
Investment planning chief	: Gerner.
Obermeister	: (1) von Rhein; (2) Rössel; and (3) Schnabel.
Interpreter	: Treu, (succeeding Voigt

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16. At Neustadt, the nickel wire screen is cleaned twice with gasoline or other similar fluids, first as it is taken from the looms, and again when it is transferred from the wooden rolls on which it is rolled as it is woven to the cardboard rolls on which it is shipped out. At present, the screen is cleaned by wiping with a rag soaked in gasoline, although in the past, non-flammable cleaning fluids were used when available.

17. The oiled paper in which the finished product is wrapped before it is packed in wooden crates is supplied to Tewa-Neustadt by the DHZ-Papier, Erfurt. The paper is picked up by Tewa employees in Erfurt. The actual manufacturer of the paper is unknown.

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18. Following are the various Russians connected with the wire screen program:

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a. Stesnov is doing Palilov's work at Neustadt while the latter is on vacation, . Stesnov was at Zeiss, Jena,

Stesnov had to accept personally delivery from Zeiss of all orders bearing a particular consignors' number (Kommittentennummer) these orders were for his own Academy in the USSR. This "Kommittentennummer" changed each year. Stesnov no longer uses this device, however, but charges all his orders to the chief purchasing office for the Soviet Army in Germany, located on Pappelallee in Potsdam.

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b. Senin, [redacted] is [redacted] responsible for setting up the wire screen factories.

c. Sobolev is judged to have been Stesnov's predecessor [redacted] In November 1950, Sobolev went to Zeiss, 50X1-HUM Jena, with an urgent requirement for an optimeter to measure very fine wires. He bought five wire-measuring optimeters (Drahtmessoptimeter), which can measure from 0 to 200 microns with a tolerance of plus or minus one-half micron.

d. Feodotov, was responsible for wire screen at Baderschneider und Lenzner. [redacted] Feodotov had accepted inferior screen at Baderschneider. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

e. Ukhanov, Prikhodko's successor at Tewa-Neustadt, is an engineer. [redacted]

19. On 6 September 1951, a group of Russian officials came to Tewa-Neustadt. This group included Palilov, Ukhanov, Chernichenko, Shveits, and Moslachenko. Shveits is the successor to Bayandurov of the Thuringian SKK-Reparations Division. [redacted] 50X1-HUM Bayandurov returned to the USSR in the summer of 1951. Moslachenko [redacted] had come with Chernichenko from Berlin.

20. For several months, it has been noticed that, occasionally, places occur in the finished nickel wire screen where the wire is as much as 20 microns smaller in diameter than required by the specifications (i.e. diameters down to 34 microns have been observed). In February or March 1951, Seidel and Kaiser, of the Kupfer-und Messingwerk, Hettstedt and a representative of C.J. Vogel, Berlin-Köpenick, came to Neustadt to study the situation. Their conclusion was that it must be the fault of the weavers or of the weaving machines, which perhaps from time to time stretched portions of the wire. The weavers, on the other hand, maintain that this is not the case and blame the wire-drawing plants. It has been observed at the Neustadt plant that these undersize wires are all perfectly round, and not flattened. Palilov had always been in the habit of accepting screen which contained such stretches of thin wire, but Stesnov, who is now substituting for him during his vacation, has started to reject these pieces. The Tewa authorities have decided to try to solve the mystery by supplying each plant with wire from only one of the wire-drawing plants, hoping that this will provide a clue. Some think that there may be certain impurities in the lubricants used in the wire-drawing which are stirred up only occasionally and produce an abrasive effect. In any case, the checkers can readily see the spots where the wire is thin because they look light.

21. The former Jaeger firm in Neustadt, now Drahtwebstuhlbau (VVB WMW), is making only coarse weaving reeds for the paper industry. Director Bause has refused to make any more fine reeds because of the large number of rejects from the USSR in the spring of 1951. Bause, who was instructed by the Russians to replace these reject reeds, did, in fact, complete 29 reeds for 10,000-mesh screen, but although they have been completed for two months now, no one has appeared to accept them. The Jaeger firm is also not making any weaving looms for wire screen.

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[redacted]

* [redacted] Comment: One French-inch equals 2.7 cm.
One English-inch equals 2.54 cm.

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[redacted]

*** [redacted] Comment: Not further identified, but may possibly be the Farbwerk Ohrdruf, formerly Farbwerk Dr. W. König K.-G. at Ohrdruf near Sonneberg.

**** [redacted] Comment: The stretching percentage should be almost zero.

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